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July 2009

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic

Canada Organic Regulations Come into Full Force

On June 30th, 2009 the Canadian Organic Regulations came into full force. As of today, July 1, 2009 any food, feed or beverage produced or entering into the Canadian market labeled as organic must be certified by an accredited certification agent for Canada or must be certified and covered under an equivalency agreement. Oregon Tilth has been listed as an accredited certification agent for the Canadian organic regulation. You can view the full list of accredited agents on the [CFIA website](#).

OTCO Operations and Review

Operations which OTCO currently certifies whose business resides in Canada will need to review their organic operations for compliance under the COR. Application supplements which will address additional questions and differences from the NOP standard will be mailed to all OTCO Canadian operators soon. Review to the COR will be conducted on site during your next normal annual inspection.

Operations within the US who ship products to Canada will be able to do so under the equivalency agreement. This equivalency does outline a few minor conditions for export from the US to Canada. These conditions are outlined in the [equivalency letters](#) and listed below:

- US agricultural products produced with the use of sodium nitrate cannot be sold or marketed as organic in Canada.
- US agricultural products produced by hydroponic or aeroponic production methods cannot be sold or marketed as organic in Canada.
- US agricultural products derived from animals must be produced according to livestock stocking rates as set out in the Canadian Standard.
- Canadian agricultural products produced from animals treated with antibiotics will not be allowed to be sold as organic in the US.

The details of the agreement and the requirements for this equivalency are still being worked out. [Contact Oregon Tilth](#) with questions prior to any changes.

Transition

The [policy for transition of the Canada Organic Regime](#) has been published along with the final version of the regulation. This plan will apply only to OTCO operators currently residing in Canada. The plan includes a full stream of commerce flow through for products and packaging from before the mandatory system comes into effect (July 2009). It also includes a sun-setting of all certification (so operators may be reviewed at their next annual inspection and review) and a two-year window on full compliance.

[Learn More!](#)

Contact [Jim Pierce, OTCO Global Program Manager](#) for a copy of the standards and permitted substance list.

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[Canada Organic Products Regulation](#)



Use of the Canada Logo

Companies may begin using the Canada logo on products as of today, July 1, 2009, provided that the product has been NOP certified and verified to meet any applicable restrictions under the equivalency agreement and/or produced in Canada and currently certified by OTCO.

To receive a copy of the Canada logo please contact Oregon Tilth. Please remember that all new labels must be approved by Oregon Tilth prior to printing. Please submit any label modifications to your Oregon Tilth staff contact for review.

Resources and Links

[Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)

[NOP Equivalency Q & A](#)

[Organic Trade Association - Canada](#)

